

Many visitors ask how they can have water gardens at home. A pond should be viewed as a habitat for plants and animals because you will have both. Water should not be over three feet deep and should not have a strong current. Water lilies and lotus both require eight hours of sun a day to bloom. There are books on setting up a pond and suggest plants that do well in different conditions. Look at several in your library and buy ones you feel are most useful to you. **Consider community safety regulations before you build a pond. Some communities limit depth, others require a fence around a pond as one would a swimming pool.**

Tub gardens are an easy to manage substitute. They can be set on a table or in the ground but are usually a seasonal feature that can be emptied and put away in winter. A small tub garden can be a decorative dish with a single potted plant, or a large container with multiple plants and fish. Plants can be wintered over inside the house if there is adequate sun, or the pots of winter tolerant plants can be sunk in holes in the ground and covered with leaves or mulch. If mosquitoes become a problem in large containers (you will see wriggling worm type things), simply skim them off and dump them on the ground. In a small container, you can empty the container of water and mosquitoes, and refill with water as you would a bird bath. Restrictions on ponds may not apply to tub gardens.